EXTRA

The Hamilton Spectator

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List Arts Center Opens Today

North side patio

BY BARBARA SANDERS

At first glance, Kirkland's new $1.5 million arts center is a maze of levels, angles, and stairwells. Designed by Benjamin Thompson, the fifty room building includes studios for painting, sculpture, ceramics and metals, music practice rooms, an instrumental and vocal rehearsal hall, and a dance studio.

The structure is divided into two sections. Eleven studios for the visual arts are located in the west wing. The performing arts are housed in the east wing together with special recording and projection facilities.

The dance studio — one of the largest rooms in the building — is situated in the basement of the east wing. The studio features an observation balcony and a special floor that is similar to the one found at the Juliard School of Music in New York City. Floor to ceiling mirrors line the back wall. Eventually these will be removed to form the backstage area for the auditorium scheduled to be built between the List Center and McEwen Hall.

This basement level also contains a dressing room for the dancers, a shop, and instrumental storage space.

The vocal and instrumental rehearsal hall is the other major room of the east wing of the building. Both dance studio and rehearsal hall can be viewed through windows located in the pentagonal shaped first floor lobby.

Inbetween the dance studio and the rehearsal hall, there are two faculty offices that appear to sit on top of each other. One opens onto the dance studio; the other, onto the recreational hall.

All faculty offices in the building are similar to these two in that they connect directly with "working areas."

Also on the right side of the first floor are two other faculty offices and secretarial space.

On the second floor, above the dance studio, eight instrumental practice rooms are located. They are soundproof and irregularly shaped for the best possible accoustics.

In addition, four of the practice rooms are equipped for projection from a central control "alley" and are wired for recording and music listening.

Above the rehearsal hall, on the second floor, is an octagonal audio-visual area. Up to eight images — movies or stills — can be projected into the room at the same time. The area has also been wired for multiple speakers. It is hoped that this room will develop into an experimental sight and sound workshop.

Also tucked away in this wing of the building is an electronic synthesizer and two studio quality taperecorders. The synthesizer room is adjacent the major audio-visual control center for all permanent speakers, projectors, and recorders in the building.

Students will be able to listen to music, curricular or recreational, in four of the practice rooms, the audio-visual area, and the vocal rehearsal hall. In addition any room on the second floor may be used for music listening by headphones that plug into movable carts equipped with turntable and taperecorder. Currently two of these carts will be used next year. More will be added as needed.

The second floor lobby of the building is designed to be an exhibition area. One wall of the lobby is constructed so that it can be converted into a large rear projection screen.

Across from the lobby is a photography section with one major darkroom, several individual darkrooms and a general work area.

Down the hall from photography is the large painting studio equipped with skylights. On a half-level above is a balcony for individual projects and a half-level below is the graphics studio. The rest of the second floor is given over to other studios for drawing and painting.

Downstairs, on the first level, there are also studios for painting, metal working, ceramics, and sculpture.

The sculpture studio opens onto a sculpture court facing the current residence halls, and a large kiln will be located outside the building next to the courtyard.

One of the most interesting features of the building is the roof which will eventually be used for sunbathing and viewing the campus.

Opening Ceremonies Include Concerts, Dedication, Art Show

BY BARBARA STEIN

The Vera G. and Albert A. List Arts Center will officially open Saturday, May 16 with a concert in the building. Bernard Krainis, "America's foremost recorder player," and co-founder of the Pro Musica, the Hamilton-Kirkland Woodwind Ensemble, and the Hamilton Brass Choir will perform. Kirkland students, and both Hamilton and Kirkland faculty and administrators are invited to this concert.

President Samuel Fisher Babbitt and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Walter Beinecke, Jr. will dedicate the building at 1:30 P.M. in the outdoor arcade of the building. A plaque dedicating the building in honor of the Lists will be unveiled at this time.

The building will then be open to visitors for viewing. Works by Kirkland faculty members Robert Paluski and Peter Ostuni, sculptor Sy Griesser, and Kirkland students will be on display in the building.

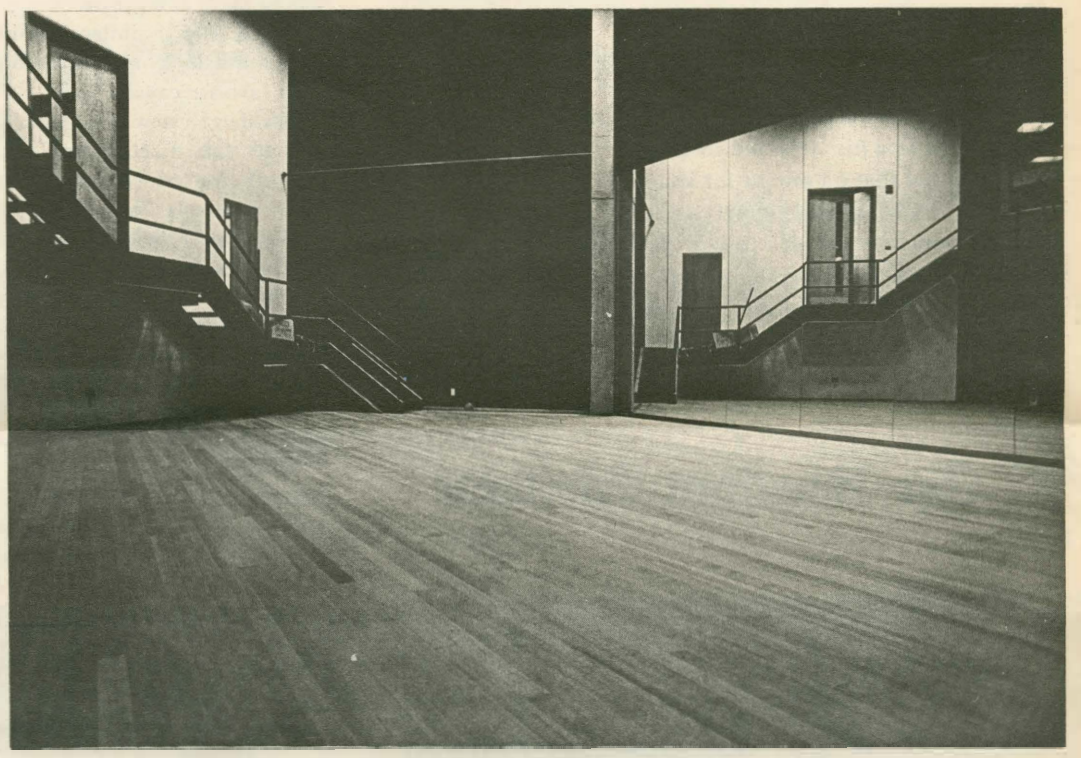
Eugene List and Carol Glenn, parents of Kirkland student Allison List, will perform in the Chapel at 8:00 P.M. in honor of the opening. Eugene List is a world renowned pianist, who has played in the White House for three different administrations. Carol Glenn, "America's foremost female vocalist," is known as being a "pioneer of unusual violin music."

President Babbitt commented on the opening of the building in relation to the school's reaction to the present national crisis, "It is a strangely fit time for a college to dedicate a center for the arts. After all, through all the chaos that man has endured and even created for himself in historical time, art has always been the clearest means he had to express his sense of the possibility of order, of ideal, of survival. Art comments on the world. Indeed, among other things, art is one of the most lasting and effective means of protest ever devised."

Plaque Inscription

THE TRUSTEES
OF KIRKLAND COLLEGE
TAKE PRIDE AND PLEASURE IN
NAMING THIS BUILDING IN HONOR OF
VERA G. AND ALBERT A. LIST
PHILANTHROPISTS, PATRONS, AND COLLECTORS
OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION
WHOSE GENEROSITY TO KIRKLAND MADE
POSSIBLE THIS CENTER
FOR THE LIVING ARTS

SPRING, 1970



Dance studio, located in the basement of the east wing

Kirkland College Arts Faculty 'Dynamic, Inter-disciplinary'

BY WILLIAM ROSENFELD

At the risk of sounding schizophrenic, I think it should be known that the Arts Faculty of Kirkland College thinks two ways at once.

On one track each of us is committed to excellence in his own medium. Of course, we would not be an Arts Faculty of any consequence if we did not feel that.

Nonetheless, working with Kirkland students — a ferociously impatient and intelligent set of young artists — we feel the need to preach periodically that only through discipline, patience, and a detachment does one achieve technical proficiency in art.

It is an old story and may even seem redundant here, but without the bedrock ability to manage technique, genius stands little chance of being teased into activity by any faculty alive.

On the other hand, we would admit that our students' anxiety to excel keeps us vibrating as teachers and artists in our own rights.

If we manage to contain and help distribute our students' energy, in short, if our efforts are equal to theirs, then they ultimately will outdistance us as artists, which is the sincere hope of the Kirkland Arts Faculty.

Our second track of thought is inter-disciplinary. I wish to make no claim of uniqueness here. The mixed or multimedia activity is widespread among contemporary arts.

Still, each member of our faculty has engaged in activities with arts other than his "own." The real point is not that we are multi-media people but that we are prone to expansion and experimentation. Hence, we may say that our posture is dynamic rather than static.

The excercise in some instances involves advanced experimentation within a medium. Mordecai Shankman, for example, has spent several years training and composing on electronic synthesizers.

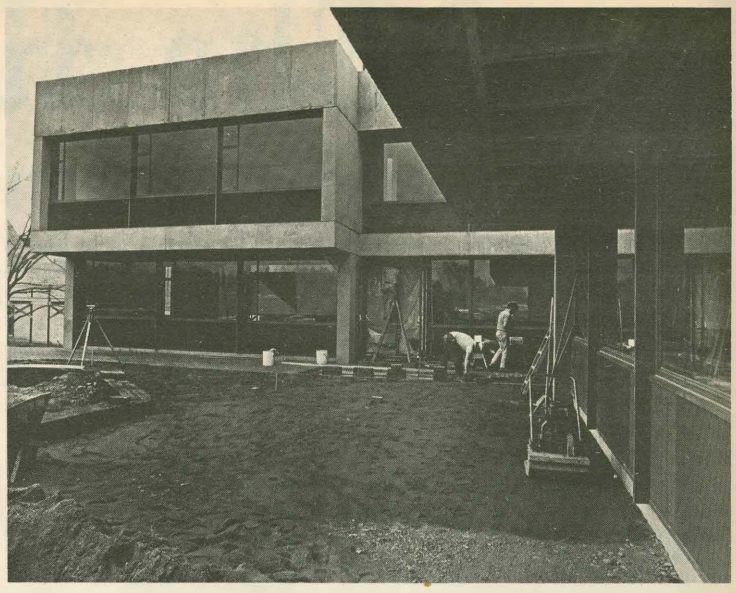
His artisitic impulse also moves along the mystical avenue of yoga and the disciplined force of Aikido. His energies and intellect are truly cosmopolitan, as the students of his Inter-Arts Seminar will testify.

Peter Ostuni's experience in the full range of sculptured materials, pigmentary color, and canvas design have induced him to examine kinetic sculpture and particularly the dynamics of his electronic lumiere.

Bob Paluski — an erstwhile professional musician — further compounds graphics and ceramics by requiring his students to write stories and verse as themes for their prints and pots. Who knows what odes may yet be written to a Kirkland urn?

The literary impulse also feeds themes and responses in Kazuko Hirabayashi's dance workshops. I myself have conducted a program of synchronized arts for students in any of the media.

The type and title of our program comprise unity and diversity, or should I say integrity and integration? Whichever rhetorical device one wishes to exercise, our vocabulary of action remains both patient pursuit of technical excellence and restless pursuit of new forms, new methods of exciting our students and the community which we share.



The List Arts Center is designed for an extensive arts program at the college. There are eleven studios for painting, sculpture, ceramics metals, and graphics, plus darkrooms for photography. Nine instrumental and vocal practice rooms, a 100 seat rehersal hall for group performances, a dance studio, and an electronic synthesizer serve the performing arts. There is, as well, a special octagonal audio-visual arena, –ideal for mixed-media experiments – equipped with projection and recording equipment.

The architect for the Center was Benjamin Thompson and Associates, of Cambridge, Mass.

Walden Receives Prize At Opening Ceremonies

Diane Walden has been awarded the George A. Watrous Literature Prize for Poetry.

Mrs. Edgar W. Couper is donating the prize in memory of her father George A. Watrous. Mrs. Couper will offer three prizes annually; one in poetry, one in prose fiction, and one in critical essay. Judges are committed to award these prizes only when they find material worthy of a prize. This year they awarded only one prize.

Each prize winner will receive $75, and the best of the three will receive an extra $25.

The four judges this year were James R. Hollis, Assistant Professor of English, Adrian Jaffe, Chairman of the Humanities Division, William Rosenfeld, Associate Professor of Arts, and Frederick R. Wagner, Assistant Professor of English.

WALKING POEM

the little man ran across the field
with big green balloons and a whistle
and his dog with brown and white spots
and they ran into their friends Pig and Peg the pigs
who played all day in the mud and their friends the cows
lived right across the fence and they rubbed noses between
the wires of the pig pen fence.

and the little man happily gurgitating words
and he waved his arms a lot decided to build a
temple of red clay and the yellow berries that he
carried in his pocket faithfully.
and he would dedicate this temple to his long lost love
sally sue who gave him pancakes in the morning
and disappeared mysteriously one day
when she left him her left-over years
and a picture of three silver spoons that she hung on the wall
above all else.
needless to say
she hasn't been heard from since.

and the little man happily spent his day
in the sunshine with the pigs and their friends the cows
and of course his dog
building this temple of red clay and his special
yellow berries.
(the sun set and his temple was smilingly enough finished
and then he tied his razor and socks and
her yarns and that picture of the spoons
in a blue and white neckerchief and then
he cut a branch down off a tree of the woods
and slipped his belongings unto its finger
and flew away in his airplane, its tailfin full
of laughing cow.)

diane walden

The Hamilton Spectator

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Schedule of Events

The following events have been scheduled in honor of the opening of the List Arts Center.

11:00A.M.

CONCERT: Bernard Krainis, recorders. The Hamilton-Kirkland Woodwind Ensemble. The Hamilton Brass Choir.

Vocal Rehearsal Hall in List Arts Center

(This concert will be open only to Hamilton and Kirkland Faculty and staff, and Kirkland students.)

1:30 P.M.

The dedication of the List Arts Center in the arcade.

1:45 – 4:00 P.M.

A retrospective exhibition of paintings and sculpture by Peter Ostuni, and an exhibition of ceramics by Bob Palusky will be on display in the List Arts Center.

8:00 P.M.

CONCERT: Eugene List, piano, and Carroll Glenn, violin.

The Hamilton Chapel

Albert & Vera List Background

"You are put on this earth," Albert A. List once said, "to be productive for yourself until you've got everything that money can buy. After that it belongs to humanity."

List could have been describing his own life.

As a financer and industrialist, List amassed a huge fortune by reviving large companies and then selling them at a profit.

Since 1945, philanthropist List and his wife Vera annually contribute more than $5 million to their favorite causes.

Kirkland's new arts center which opens today is one of the most recent examples of the List's support for education and the fine arts. Their other interests include medical reasearch, social services, and religious organizations.

The Lists agreed to contribute to the arts building when Kirkland College was still an apple orchard. Walter Beinecke, who chairs Kirkland's Board of Trustees, brought the Lists to the site of the new college where they met President Samuel Babbitt. Several weeks later, Kirkland received a pledge from the List Foundation for the building.

Now 68 years old, Mr. List acquired his business and financial knowledge through practical experience. He left grade school at the age of 14 and his only other formal education was received at night school.

List left night school after two years, when his two older brothers went off to serve in World War I.

Four years later, the List brothers went into business. They expanded their father's grocery store to the point where it became a tire distributor and later a distributor for the Frigidaire division of General Motors.

By 1937, List acquired his first million. "I told myself," he recalled years later, "that once I made $1 million I would retire. That's the only time I knew what I was worth. From then on it was all plus."

Boredom led List to return to business in 1942. As former Chairman of the Board of Glen Alden Corporation, his financial interests include three textile companies, the nation's largest producer of anthracite coal, and the R.K.O. chain.

Mr. List regularly worked 18 hour days. "How many people want to give up their life to get to know their business better than anyone else?" List asked a *New York Times* reporter in 1965. "That's a hell of a price to pay and damned few people are willing to pay it."

Mrs. Vera List is a remarkable person in her own right.

According to Albert List, she kindled his interest in the arts. "She would bring home $25 thousand Monets and I would say, "Hell, I could buy twenty looms for that." Today the paintings are worth over $250 thousand.

In addition to her other activities, Mrs. List is President of the Friends of the Whitney Museum in New York. She and her husband also own an extensive collection of contemporary art and sculpture.

Besides Kirkland, other institutions supported by the List Foundation include the Jewish Theological Seminary, Lincoln Center, and Mt. Sinai Hospital. The Lists helped to found the New School for Social Research and they financed a wing of the Jewish Musuem in New York.